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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,471	08/01/2003	William James Hughes	AHUG.011	4799

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/633,471

Applicant(s)

HUGHES, WILLIAM JAMES

Examiner

JAMES M. HEWITT

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/18/07 & 11/6/07.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-10,13-18,21-26,30-34,50,54-59,63,65 and 66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18,21,22,24-26 and 30-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-10,13-17,23,54-59,63,65 and 66 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

On page 12 of the amendment, the paragraph to be amended should be indicated as being located at page 8, line 18 and not at page 8, line 3.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13-17, 54-59, 63 and 65-66 are objected to because of the following informalities:

On the last line of claim 1, "the plurality of coarse threads" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim 4 should be canceled as it now conflicts with amended claim 1.

Claim 5 should also be canceled as it fails to further limit amended claim 1.

Claims 54, 55, 57-59, 63 and 65-66 should depend from claim 50.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 18, 21-22, 24-26 and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moon (US 2,750,569).

With respect to claim 18, Moon discloses an apparatus for providing power to a subterranean environment, comprising: a drilling assembly containing a plurality of tubing sections; a plurality of tubing joints for connecting the plurality of tubing sections together, each tubing joint comprising: a plug having a plug center spline (25) and a plurality of plug outer splines (10) and a plurality of first conduits (26); a socket having a socket receptacle, a plurality of socket receptacle splines (4, or defined thereby) and a plurality of second conduits (holding prongs 21); a securing device (11) for securing the plug to the socket; and wherein the plug and the socket may be joined in N orientations (e.g. vertically, horizontally, angled, relative to a given vantage point) where N is equal to the number of plug outer splines; and wherein the plurality of first conduits and the plurality of second conduits are automatically aligned when the plug and the socket are plugged together (col. 3, ll. 32-55); wherein a cavity created by the socket receptacle and the plurality of socket receptacle splines is shaped so that the plug center spline and the plurality of plug outer splines will intermesh with the socket receptacle and the socket receptacle splines when the plug and socket are plugged together; wherein the plurality of plug outer splines and the plurality of socket receptacle splines are coaxially symmetric and have the same dimensions so that an alignment can be achieved in a plurality of orientations; and wherein the securing device is a coupling collar adapted for connection to the plug and the socket, the coupling collar initially engaged with the plug.

With respect to claims 21 and 22, the threads can be considered fine or coarse.

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With respect to claims 24-26 and 34, the plug and socket are connectable in two, three or four or more distinct orientations.

With respect to claims 30-31, the tubing sections are casing or pipe.

With respect to claims 32-33, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13-17, 50, 54-59, 63 and 65-66 are allowed over the prior art. Note however the above claim objections.

Claim 23 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

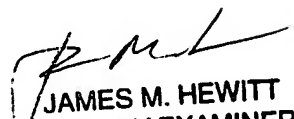
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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. HEWITT whose telephone number is (571)272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER